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When will we lose this eyesore?

by Julia Church



The Rose & Young site - "Depressing, unsightly and wasteful" - Peter Ainsworth, MP for East Surrey

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It has been 14 years since Rose & Young vacated their premises at No. 67 Croydon Road, Caterham Valley, and moved to Redhill in 1994 and the building has remained empty ever since. Residents and traders have been making it clear they do not want to spend the next 14 years living in the shadow of what has become Caterham's most hated eyesore. Over the years, various planning applications have been submitted by the owner to Tandridge District Council for redevelopment of the site. There the process mysteriously grinds

to a halt, and no hoped-for development has taken place. Speaking to The Caterham Independent, East Surrey MP, Mr Peter Ainsworth, Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said: "This really has gone on far too long.

It certainly is a blot on Caterham's landscape and damages the town's economic vitality. It is very depressing, unsightly and wasteful."

Story continued on centre pages

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Julia Church

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Kenley Airfield to remain unfenced

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has withdrawn its appeal against refusal of planning permission by Croydon Borough and Tandridge District Councils for the erection of a four foot high metal fence around the perimeter track of Kenley Airfield. Instead, the MoD is working with officers from the two local authorities, the City of London (which manages Kenley Common), Surrey Hills Gliding Club and others to help improve public access and safety at the Airfield. Hilary Turner, District and

Parish Councillor for Portley Ward, Caterham, said: "This is very welcome news and is a tribute to those who organised the two petitions against the fence and to over 800 people who signed them. Sometimes public action does have a real impact.

"I am also very pleased that the MoD, Air Cadets, Gliding Club and local authorities are now working together to ensure the continued safety of gliding and public use while maintaining access around the Airfield perimeter. I urge all those who visit the Airfield to keep to the public areas and follow safety advice."

Derek's on wheels!

A local World War II veteran is able to get out and about again now, thanks to a donation from the British Legion Benevolent Fund. Ex Serjeant Major of the Royal Army Service Corps (Logistic Corps), Derek Runciman, is disabled and getting out to visit his wife's grave or join his friends at the Legion used to be a slow and arduous task. Derek now has the freedom to get around with ease, thanks to his new motorised scooter, paid for by the fund.

President of the Caterham Royal British Legion and Ex-Servicemen's Club, Peter McNeil (pictured above with



Derek), said: "The Legion is still working in the area and we can offer help to ex-servicemen if they need assistance."

Peter can be contacted on 01883 348221. All enquiries will be handled in confidence.

Surrey working on new 'Community Hub'

July will see the one-year anniversary of the closure of the Adult Education Centre in Caterham Valley, leaving many local residents angry and upset at the loss of the facility. 'Surplus to requirement' assets such as these are being sold across the county to help make up the huge shortfall in government subsidies for Surrey. The popular community centre in the old drill hall in Godstone Road was another asset sold by Surrey County Council. But will the money raised from the sales be reinvested in Caterham, a growing town that needs a new youth facility, amongst other things? Surrey County Councillor for Caterham Valley, Cllr. Sally Marks, gave us an update

on the situation: "The good news is that there seems to be much more understanding that some of the proceeds at least will be reinvested into this town," she said. "There is a lot of work currently going on at the Council to do with a business case for a new 'community hub' and I am very pleased at what has been decided so far - it will tick a lot of boxes. The Youth Development Service is identifying the needs of the youth of Caterham and it is recognised and still on the plan that Caterham will get a youth facility. In the meantime, I am pleased to say that the Baptist Church users are now able to use the car park at the old Adult Education Centre."

Shelley's Music and Movement

Personal Trainer, Shelley Baker, is using her skills to bring music and movement to the elderly residents of local old people's homes. "It all started when my nan came to live with us when she was unwell," explained Shelley. "I went through some gentle exercises to music with her to lift her spirits and she really enjoyed it. I rang around some local homes who thought that music and movement classes would be a good idea and now I run weekly classes at four different homes." Shelley's classes start with a half-hour warm-up followed by exercises using resistance bands to increase muscle strength and tennis balls to improve hand-eye co-ordination. Her classes have proved to be a hit with the residents who say she has brought the spark back into their lives! For more information you can call Shelley, at Fits-U Personal Training on 07984 400 232.



Shelley's weekly classes are a popular social occasion

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BUNNY FUN RUN 2008

Over 200 people turned out on a freezing cold, wet day to take part in the first ever Rotary Bunny Fun Run on Sunday, 16th March. Despite the weather, the atmosphere was cheerful and the runners from all age groups showed true fortitude as they squelched their way across the 1km Fun Run or the 5km race. So far the event has raised over £1,000 for Marie Curie and other Rotary charities. Rotarian, Richard York said: "The event has been a great success and we will definitely organise another Fun Run for the Sunday before Easter next year. Hopefully next time we'll have some sunshine!" Please send any sponsor money to 'Rotary Runs, 1 Eglise Road, Warlingham, CR6 9SE.



The youngest runner, Jack Arnold, raised £250 for Marie Curie in memory of his uncle who died of cancer aged 27.



The under-14's setting off on the 1km Fun Run. First past the line was Francesca Parris.



Maria Addaway, the fastest lady in the 5km race.



The tired but happy Chaldon Creakers clutching their eggs at the end of the race.



President of Caterham Rotary, Roger Easter left and Cllr. Matthew Groves who started the race

The winners of the Best Dressed Under 14's were Emily Palmer, Oliver Fothergill-Kemp and Jake Arnold. The Best Dressed in the 5km race were Mike Mackenzie and Christine Hegner. Go to www.caterham-independent.co.uk for a full list of the 5km race runners and their times.



Winner of the 5km race, David Baker, centre, completed the race in 18 minutes 11 seconds. Left, runner-up, Richard Lee-Smith and 3rd place Martin Rice.

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Recognising sporting excellence

On Wednesday, 2nd April, Caterham Rotary launched its new 'Sporting Excellence Award' by presenting a cheque for £250 to local athlete, 19 year old Hannah Brooks. The presentation took place at Oxted Secondary School where Hannah attended before going to Birmingham University to study Psychology. Hannah, whose home is in Caterham Valley, is one of the top middle distance runners in Europe for her age group and is aiming to be a gold medal winner at the London 2012 or 2016 Olympics. At the presentation ceremony, Rotarian Mike Dalton, said: "We are here to award Hannah with the first ever Sporting Award for Excellence from Caterham Rotary Club. We wanted to recognise youngsters in all areas of sport and Hannah is a very deserving recipient of the first award. We want it to become an established part of the relationship be-

tween the Rotary Club and schools, and we thought this auspicious occasion would be a very good way to kick off the award." Mr Adrian Bennett, Head of Sixth Form at Oxted School, said: "We are extremely proud of Hannah who has been a great inspiration for our pupils. Despite the hours spent rigorously training at the track, Hannah never once detracted from her studies and achieved excellence in her academic studies as well as in sport. We are delighted that Caterham Rotary are supporting her in this way and that the first ever Award is taking place at Oxted School." Hannah is being mentored by Dame Kelly Holmes who is helping talented young female middle distance athletes to achieve their dreams through 'On Camp with Kelly', an initiative sponsored and supported by Norwich Union. Dame



Hannah Brooks

Kelly's vision was that OCWK should be an educational development programme so that the athletes who are part of it gain life experiences as well as learn what it takes to become a world class athlete. Through OCWK, Hannah has attended training camps in Loughborough University, travelled to the Commonwealth Games in Australia and raced in international meetings across the UK and Europe. "OCWK has been fantastic because teaches us that being a world class athlete isn't just about physical training, it's about the



(Left to right) Head of Oxted Sixth Form, Adrian Bennett, Head of Girls PE, Jenny Searle, Headteacher, Guy Nelson, Hannah Brooks and Caterham Rotary President Elect, Bill Ridley.

whole person - taking care of ourselves properly and developing the personal qualities we need to stick to our goals, whatever challenges and obstacles might get in our way," explained Hannah. "It was a real thrill to go to the Commonwealth Games, although I wanted to be on the track rather

than a spectator!"

Training to become a world-class athlete involves a lot of expense, however. The cost of travelling to sporting venues, accommodation and having to buy new trainers every three months can add up to a tidy sum. "I try to save where I can, for example I don't bother spending money on designer running shirts - it's more important to invest in the correct footwear," explained Hannah.

On receiving the cheque, Hannah said: "Thank you so much. I'm really grateful to the Rotary Club for this award - you have no idea how much it will help! I'm very honoured to be the first person to be given the award."

The Caterham Independent will be following Hannah's progress as she follows her dream to be on the podium with her gold medal one day! Later this year Caterham Rotary will be sending out packs to local schools inviting them to nominate candidates for the 2009 award.

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Rock Night raises funds for COAT

Supporters of the Caterham Overseas Aid Trust (COAT) raised nearly £800 last month at a lively evening of dancing to local rock band, 'Bedrock'. The band performed a medley of classic numbers from bands such as the Rolling Stones, Free and Led Zepelin in front of a floor packed with dancers. The

event took place at the Sacred Heart Hall in Essendene Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill and the money raised will go to fund the charity's ongoing projects in Africa. For more information about COAT, the work they do and their fundraising efforts, please telephone Phil Saville on 01883 342272 /341063.

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Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw



Some of you may have seen recent newspaper articles highlighting isolated pockets of anti-social behaviour or criminal damage in Caterham. Although residents and business owners in the town centre and Caterham-on-the-Hill have suffered from some youth related crime and disorder recently the problem is not rife as you were led to believe. Those of you who live or work in Caterham will know that officers from my Safer Neighbourhood Team regularly patrol areas where we know youngsters congregate and we are working hard to ensure the community is

safe and feels safe. But tackling anti-social behaviour is not an issue Surrey Police can tackle alone. As I discussed last month we work closely with Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council, Guinness Trust, housing associations, Youth Service and other agencies in order to establish long-term solutions to these neighbourhood concerns. We also encourage the community to take an active interest in their area because with everyone working towards one goal it will mean we can achieve a lot more for the well-being of the community. There are also a lot of meas-

ures in place to combat anti-social behaviour in and around the town centre that for obvious reasons we do not always make public. However, I can personally assure you that my officers are working extremely hard behind the scenes to crack down on anti-social behaviour.

Youth related crime and disorder is not something Surrey Police takes lightly and we would encourage anyone who has been a victim of anti-social behaviour to report it to the police immediately.

Sightings of the A22 'ghost' reappeared along the Caterham Bypass recently spooking a motorist. The figure, which appears to be of a woman in a distressed state, crosses the road in front of motorists and then disappears up a flight of stairs into a wooded area. These sightings have been reported going back many years and I myself attended one such incident in 2006. Although I am aware there is some debate over who, or what, the figure is we at Surrey Police are keeping an open mind about the sightings.

Strange but true!

If you go down to Caterham Valley Computers today you're sure of a big surprise! Common sense will tell you that it can't be true but there you will see a fully working computer submerged in an aquarium. The wireless keyboard is the only component outside the aquarium, which is a particular favourite with young children who can see that it should not work. It was created as a shop fitting and it is the first time a whole PC including screen and boot/storage media has been successfully

submerged. Brad King, owner of the Godstone Road shop, said: "We got the idea on the coach on the way to our Christmas Party. We were discussing a similar project in another country that hadn't quite succeeded and decided to give it a go." The aquarium pc cost about £800 to build and Trust, the pan-European computer components and peripherals manufacturer, contributed a few hundred pounds towards the cost. A video of the PC is available on www.youtube.com. Just search for 'Caterham Valley Computers'.



Technician Douglas Brand-Williamson proudly demonstrates the world's first Aquarium PC.

Have your say!

A Police Liaison Meeting is being held at Chaldon Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd April 8.00 - 9.00 pm

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de Stafford in the community

by Mark Phillips

Headteacher of de Stafford School

I am sure many of you reading this article would be amazed at the many serious problems that our young people face in their daily lives, problems that many adults would struggle to cope with. Yet every day children who are carers for adult family members, children who have suffered bereavement, children who cope with violence in the home, come to school, behave impeccably, work hard and make a positive contribution to school life.

A young man in Year 11, who recently experienced the death of his father, has set out to raise £2,000 so he can support a fund raising event for a charity that helped him at that terrible time in his life. How amazing is that? If anyone read-

ing this would like to support Ian in his ambition please contact the school directly and we will tell you how you can make a contribution to his fund.

The end of March has seen the culmination of months of hard work for a large group of young actors as we have seen the musical 'Annie' performed to a packed school hall. I know all the audience have been amazed by the talent of our performers. The lead parts were played by Taisy Duncan-King, Chris Walsh, Sophie McKinnon, Natalie Bird, Connor Lancley and Jodie Murrill.

Events like this are a very special part of school life as they bring together large numbers of children from all year groups and give them the opportunity



to work together and experience success. Beyond acting, children organized lighting, sound, costumes, makeup and most importantly, music.

I must express my sincere gratitude to Amanda Rainford, Head of Drama, who led the production. I am sure you can appreciate the hours of dedication and hard work required to make a production of this kind a reality. As well as bringing students together, Annie also involved a huge number of staff supporting behind the scenes.

Once again we have come to the end of a month when I feel privileged to be leading de Stafford School.

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Broadway at de Stafford!



Taking a bow, from left to right: Chris Walsh, as Oliver Warbucks, Sophie McKinnon, as Warbuck's PA and Taisy Duncan-King as Annie.

Students at de Stafford School put on a first-rate performance of the Broadway musical 'Annie' last month under the excellent direction of co-directors, Amanda Rainford and Miranda Wright. Eager students have been committing week after week to the grueling rehearsals and there has been a real buzz around the school in the weeks leading to show nights, with everyone feeling part of the 'Annie family'. The four-legged star, Tilly, who plays the dog Sandy, loved rehearsals and won the hearts of staff and students.

Deputy Head Boy, Chris Walsh, who plays Oliver Warbucks, said: 'Signing up

for Annie was a big commitment as I also have my GCSE work but it was worth it even though I had to learn my lines in my free time at home. It has been a great opportunity to make new friends'.

Headteacher, Mark Phillips, commented: "I am very pleased to see a school production going ahead with such a large number of students and staff. As a School we place great emphasis on curriculum enrichment and the importance of students taking part in activities beyond the classroom".

The School will be donating a percentage of ticket sales to a charity to be chosen by the students.

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Follow the Yellow Brick Road

The hall was alive with the sound of music at Essendene Lodge School in Caterham-on-the-Hill last month, when children from Years 1 and 2 performed their musical 'Follow The Yellow Brick Road' to a capacity audience.

The script had been written especially for them by their teachers to incorporate their favourite songs from famous musicals. The story began with Dorothy landing in Oz and asking the Lion, Tin Man and Scarecrow for help. The four adventurers decided to travel to see the Wizard along the yellow brick road. Along the way the charac-

ters were joined on their journey by Alice in Wonderland, Bert the chimney sweep from Mary Poppins, Mr Potts from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Maria and the Von Trap children and even the performers of Barnum's Circus.

The children entertained their audience with singing that raised the roof. Well done to the whole cast!

The Year 1 and 2 children also performed 'Follow The Yellow Brick Road' for the Essendene Juniors who will be bringing their own Dorothy to the stage in the summer in 'The Wizard of Oz'.

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Big Time Rhyme at St. Francis RC Primary School



On 3rd-7th March St. Francis RC Primary School in Whyteleafe Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, held a Peter Pan themed week of activities to raise vital funds for a new renal unit at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Pictured above are pupils taking part in the Big Time Rhyme at 9.15am on Friday 7th March. Pupils in schools all over the country attempted to smash the Guinness World Record for the largest number of people reading aloud simultaneously the verse 'To the Top' from Peter Pan in Scarlet by Geraldine McCaughrean.

Guiding news

by district Commissioner, Charley Formosa

Caterham and Tilburstow Districts celebrated Thinking Day this year at Godstone Farm with about 270 girls and adults gathering on a cold but sunny Saturday afternoon. Everyone had a great time, joining together at the end for a sing-song and renewal of the Promise. We would like to thank Godstone Farm for all their help in organising the day. At the end of February, 1st Woldingham and 9th Caterham Guide Companies organised a quiz as one of the Caterham Carnival events. Girls from both units helped during the evening and certainly earned their meal! A wonderful buffet supper was prepared by a few stalwart ladies and we would like to thank them for all their hard work. Thanks also to Wait-

rose in Caterham who donated a large amount of cheese for the buffet. The evening was a great success and raised over £700. In March, 9th Caterham Guides had a holiday at Cudham where they earned their Craft and Holiday badges. The girls spent much of the weekend making a variety of items from photograph frames to puppets and decorated bags. I was lucky enough to be at the weekend and apart from making a number of these items myself, spent the whole of Saturday evening and half the night trying to assemble a 3D jigsaw puzzle with the other two Guiders. We just about managed it and I don't know about being given a badge - I



The Caterham Carnival Quiz Night helps think we deserved a medal. The Trefoil Guild held another enjoyable meeting and this section will hopefully grow and become as successful as all the other Guiding units in the District. If you would like any information about Guiding, please contact Charley Formosa, District Commissioner, on 01883 653356.

Clifton Hill serves up lunch for Chairman



Pupils from Clifton Hill School for children with Special Educational Needs in Caterham-on-the-Hill were busy in the kitchen last month, preparing lunch for some VIP visitors. Chairman of Tandridge District Council Stephen Altria and his wife Murial, who is a governor of the school, took a tour of the school and kitchen before sitting down to enjoy their meal. Pictured are Headteacher, Marion Unsworth (far left), and Stephen and Murial Altria with the budding chefs from Clifton Hill School.



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Council awarded £10 million for affordable housing

Affordable housing in Tandridge received a massive boost last week, with the award of £7.4 million over the next three years from the Housing Corporation, which will lead to the creation of 195 new affordable homes in the district.

In addition, £2.5 million has been allocated for this current financial year, providing another 45 homes. Affordable housing is one of Tandridge's top priorities and the Council has been working hard with its housing association partners to draw up a number of bids for affordable housing schemes in the district.

The Council will now work closely with these associations to provide the district with high quality homes, for rent or purchase, at a reasonable cost. Tandridge has

a target of delivering a minimum of 40 new affordable homes per year. This funding will ensure the Council achieves in excess of this target.

The award will fund two schemes in Caterham: Eight self-contained one-bedroom units for a mix of moderate to high dependency adults with learning/physical disabilities in Whyteleafe Road and refurbishment to existing homes owned by the Le Personne Benevolent Trust to provide ten self-contained homes for elderly women at the Homes in Banstead Road.

More funding may be allocated to Tandridge over the next three years, as for the first time housing associations can bid for more money when new housing schemes are developed.

You can now view recent editions of The Caterham Independent online. Visit: www.caterham-independent.co.uk

Sea Cadets get huge boost to funds at Awards Evening

The Sea Cadets' Annual Awards Evening on 28th March provided the platform for recognising the achievements of a number of Caterham teenagers. Amongst the proud winners was Leading Cadet, Richard Fearis, who certainly went the extra mile for his unit earlier this year. Richard was keen to try skydiving and when the cadets' HQ was vandalised last year, Richard decided that doing a skydive would give him the chance to raise some money for the repairs. At the end of the ceremony, Richard presented the unit with a cheque for the £2,260 proceeds from his jump. Here follows a précis of Richard's account of his nerve-wracking experience on 27th January.

My 12,000 ft drop

As I was walking over to the plane I started to feel excited and nervous.

Within ten minutes we were



Leading cadet Richard Fearis, left, presenting the cheque for £2,260

at 10,000ft and getting ready to jump.

My heart started to race, The door opened, and huge gusts of wind immediately whipped at my face. Glancing down the shock hit me again. I felt mad, why was I doing this? As my turn came I began to wish that I wasn't doing this. Suddenly I was plummeting towards the earth and I yelled at the top of my voice. I began to relax after about ten seconds of screaming and started to enjoy it. The force of the wind was greater

than I expected. After our parachute opened I gazed upon the beautiful landscape that lay before me.

When my feet came into contact with the ground the feeling was incredible, had I really just achieved that? The whole experience was definitely worth it!

I would like to thank all those who sponsored me, Your donations will be put to much needed good use.

By Richard Fearis

The finches in my garden

by Adele Brand

I've been waiting all winter for a small bird with a dark head and pale orange chest to visit the garden. Bramblings are my favourite of the eight species of finch that I've seen in Chaldon, but also the most unpredictable. They nest in Norway and elsewhere in the north; come winter, they move erratically southwards, and, according to the BTO, birds that migrate to Britain one year might be recorded in Italy during the next.

They are certainly not lost for avian company here, although the large flocks of chaffinches and yellowhammers that have carpeted the garden for the last couple of months are starting to fracture as territorial urges return with the onset of the breeding season. Other species are actively constructing their nests. I have recently seen a female greenfinch jamming her bill full of soft winter fur shed by the Old Dogfox in his wanderings around the garden, and exquisitely marked goldfinches are gathering twigs.

Bullfinches are rather shyer, but the male with his bright pink chest is amongst our brightest small birds, although his white rump as he flies



away is sometimes more familiar! They come principally to drink from the pond, unlike their relatives, who consume all the birdseed that they can find, both on the ground and from the feeders. I had rather expected pretty little siskins - another migrant - to be among the feeding hoardes, but none have visited the garden this year.

And the bramblings? As irony would have it, I saw this symbol of winter migration for the first time this season on 19th March, which happened to be the same day I saw my first bluebells of the spring! We are truly at a junction of the seasons.



A Brambling photographed by Adele

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Rose & Young

Continued from page 1

In an effort to reduce the damaging effect the derelict site has on its neighbours, the Council has prosecuted the owner in the past for not keeping the site neat and tidy. Consequently, the owner now sees to it that the weeds are periodically removed from the brickwork and rubbish is cleared from the forecourt but this is small comfort to the local community who would far rather see the sight completely redeveloped. Chairman of the ABC 'A Better Caterham' Healthcheck, Chris Windridge, has been overseeing the analysis of the results of the recent Caterham-wide survey. "In the ABC survey 85% of the respondents demanded action on the Rose & Young site," said Chris. "It has been a blight on the shopping area of the town for long enough and it is time for the developers and the council to come up with a scheme for the site."

Stephen Weigel, Chief Executive of Tandridge District

Council, told The Caterham Independent: "Caterham Town Centre is on our Council's programme of priorities – it is one of our Council Key Objectives. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) with representatives from Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council, Parish Councils, Business, Police, Health, LA21 and Tandridge Leisure has a Community Strategy that includes Caterham Town Centre as one of the four key District priorities. The Caterham Town Centre Working Group recently met and agreed to explore the opportunity of bringing together a consortium of consultants that have different areas of expertise with regard to the future of the Town Centre."

"The Independent ABC Healthcheck has been really helpful in that it will be submitting a bid to the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) to secure funds for the Town, and acquiring that money will potentially unlock further money from central government and other sources – that is why the community



"It looks a mess. It is destroying this end of the town. Why don't they just knock it down and put a car park there? Or a garden to sit in would be nice – somewhere people can go and sit and have their lunch, even if it was just temporary." - Zoë Aslan, Gerrards Hairdresers, Croydon Road



"Caterham is a nice area with a village feel where everybody knows each other. That building makes life more difficult for the businesses at this end of Croydon Road. It would be nice to have some more shops. The council have dragged their feet for a long time - they must have had the opportunity to resolve the situation over the last few years." - Greg Jones, Power & Light Electrical Supplies, Croydon Road

"From a tourist's point of view gross! Caterham is very quaint brings it down" - Lynne Morley

"I don't think it has changed become a part of the scenery, there." - Daisy Farrell, age 17

It would be nice if something like Marks & Spencer. The government will hound us, ignore the big people that own are so damaging to the community Croydon Road

Please send your comments to The Caterham Independent, 33 High Street or e-mail: Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk

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"This is like the grotty end of town. A new store of some kind would be nice there. We just need to have something being used there to enhance the locality and make it a little bit decent." - Roger Sheldon, CK Carpets, Croydon Road



"I think they should knock it down and have a Pay & Display car park and the council can get money rather than the jobs going in and vandalising it." Susan Wimborne, Croydon Road

*"It is disgusting - I think it's not and pretty but this site is a mess, Edmonton, Canada
in my memory - it has been so used to seeing it, Godstone resident
came along there. The council would boost the town. Small businesses like ours but not sites like Rose & Young that bring unity."* - Togs, Bib & Tucker,



"I think it is diabolical, it is clearly a health hazard with hundreds of rats living in it, and you worry about the danger if kids get inside the building." - Vicky Taylor, Caterham Valley resident.

survey has been so valuable and helpful to the LSP and ABC Group. In the meantime, we are seeking to ensure that this work is progressed including examination of the potential of Caterham sites including the Rose & Young site and when approached by the owner have been encouraging him to come forward with proposals."

The recent Caterham ABC 'A Better Caterham' Healthcheck was also commended by Mr Ainsworth: "The ABC Healthcheck has produced really good results," he said. "ABC has been the first hoop to go through to get additional funding and this process is now happening. Tandridge District Council can only implement a compulsory purchase order as part of a wider scheme. They

have to apply to the Regional Development Agency for funding and anything to do with a government department takes a long time." Tony Jones of Anthony Jones Photographers in Croydon Road expressed his frustration at the lack of progress after so many years - a mood shared by many other traders in Caterham Valley: "I think it is disgusting that after 14 years Caterham is still saddled with a major eyesore because greedy investors have no thought for the community in which they work and maybe even live. It's as if the local council and other stakeholders have no will to do anything about it."

The owner of the site, was unavailable for comment.

Mr Peter Ainsworth MP has promised to write to the owner of the Rose & Young site to ask him what proposals he has for relieving Caterham of this eyesore. If you want to help the campaign to get the site redeveloped why not write to Mr Stephen Weigel at Tandridge District Council or Mr Peter Ainsworth with your views? Letters to the owner of the site, Mr O'Riordan can be sent c/o The Caterham Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham CR3 5UE

For more information contact: 'The Caterham Independent', Caterham, CR3 5UE' www.caterham-independent.co.uk

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In the garden

by Alec Herbert

As the days become warmer and longer, the spring flowers and bulbs will begin to fade and thoughts will turn to what is necessary to produce a blaze of colour in the coming months. There will be pots and containers to fill or refill, as well as gaps in beds and borders where weeds or plants have been removed. For many, the replacement of the spring bulbs and other flowering plants such as heathers is the easiest decision of the year. Simply stick to the traditional summer flower plants such as geraniums, fuchsia, petunia, impatiens (busy lizzies) etc.

These are all fine but a word of warning especially if you are not growing your own plants from cuttings or seeds. All the garden centres now have excellent selections of young plants but they will be displayed indoors mostly, with the warning 'protect from frost'. This is most important and whilst buying young plants and growing them on yourself

will reduce the costs of purchasing larger plants in a few weeks time, do not be tempted to plant straight into that empty tub on the patio. Put the young plants into the greenhouse or a frost free area and water regularly in small quantities. Allow the plants to acclimatize to outside temperatures by bringing outside in the day time and leave out over night when there is no danger of a ground frost. This process is known as hardening off and should promote a healthy and sturdy growth once the plants are planted

in their permanent position. As well as the usual summer annuals, why not consider perennials for both container and bedding? If these are purchased as young plants, they may be more expensive initially but as most will flower for several years, long term, they will provide excellent value and reduce the work load. Perennials not only provide a range of colours but many will give an appearance of attractive foliage all year round. I will outline some of the hundreds of varieties of plants available in next month's article.



A photograph of Alec Herbert's Chaldon garden taken in March

Solve window problems with



For many of us, the thought of contacting a window or glazing company is one that conjures up images of big bills and salesmen you can't get rid of until they've got the deal. Step forward Cloudy 2 Clear. The company, based in Caterham, specialises in replacing the glass in any type of window, saving the homeowner a small fortune compared to traditional double glazing companies. The owner, Chris Lucas, explained how Cloudy 2 Clear utilises the

latest technology to enable homeowners to 'Replace the panes, not the frames'.

"We have been involved in the glass manufacturing industry for a number of years and it became apparent that in the vast majority of cases there was no need to replace the entire frame in a failed window unit. Consequently we set up Cloudy 2 Clear offering customers the correct advice at fixed low prices and we set out to change the way people buy from window companies."

The company has now been running for over two years and has already replaced failed units in hundreds of homes across Surrey and Kent. According to Cloudy 2 Clear's customers the service the company offers is impressive too. Chrissie Jones, from Reigate, said: "We are thrilled with the work that has been done. We had the front of the house done, 15 arched double glazed units, in hardwood frames, all completed in less than a day. The workmen were polite and friendly and cleaned up after themselves. There were no pressure sales and we received polite and honest answers to our questions. Cleaning the windows before seemed totally pointless as the glass was steamed up in the middle, but boy, what a difference to my house now! Thank you very much for a job well done."

So whether your windows are steamed up, damaged or broken, give Cloudy 2 Clear a call and replace the panes, not the frames!

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New Trad Jazz club comes to Hamsey Green



Dave Hewett

The Post Office Social Club in Trenholme Drive, off the Limpsfield Road in Hamsey Green, is the venue for an exciting new 'Traditional Jazz' club. Waringham resident, Dave Hewett, is one of the UK's leading trombonists and he is now starting his own jazz club featuring top bands on the first Wednesday of every month. Dave explained: "Sadly, the jazz scene is definitely shrinking and we need people to open clubs to keep this music going."

The next event is on Wednesday, 7th May. Doors open at 7.00pm. Entry is £8.00. The club has an excellent licensed bar and you can order a fish and chip supper for the interval.

Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

This month, Grand National winners whose names, hopefully, you will identify from the clues even if you are not a racing buff.

1. Which 1980 winner is named after the highest mountain in Britain?
2. Which multiple winner is 'Murder' in reverse?
3. Which 1975 winner is French for 'the snail'?
4. Which 2000 winner was also the title of a 1973 film set on Devil's Island and starring Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman?
5. The 1992 Grand National was run a week before the General Election of that year. What was the appropriately named winner?

Answers

1. Ben Nevis
2. Red Rum
3. Escargot
4. Papiilon
5. Party Politics

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MP to visit The Cedars' Open Day

The Right Honourable Peter Ainsworth, MP will be Guest of Honour at a forthcoming Open Day being held at The Cedars Osteopathic & Natural Health Practice at 48 High Street, Caterham Hill.

The popular practice is throwing open its doors to anyone who would like to learn more about the services the practice provides.

"Our practitioners will be on hand to explain the various treatments and procedures we offer and to answer any questions," said Ian Wilkes of the Cedars. "We are delighted that Peter Ainsworth is coming and we're looking forward to having an informal chat with him and our other visitors about what we do here at The Cedars."



The holistic treatments provided at the practice include Reflexology, Chiropody/Podiatry and Sports Massage as well as Osteopathy. The particular health problems sometimes faced by pregnant women and children can also be treated effectively with remedies using Osteopathy, Homeopathy and Acupuncture.

Please call in for a chat and enjoy some refreshments on Saturday, April 26th from 10am - 4pm. You will be very welcome.

New funds for local communities

Surrey Community Foundation and Village Developments have launched a new fund to support communities in East Surrey. The fund will award grants to support and benefit communities in Caterham and Lingfield with the potential for the fund to be extended to other areas in East Surrey.

Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community groups which provide care and support for people in need including funding for:

- Community facilities and services;
- Sports facilities; and
- Health and well-being.

The first grant to be awarded from the fund is £3,668.50 to PSDS, a voluntary group based in East Surrey who provide support for children with Down's Syndrome and their

families. The group meet regularly to share experiences and provide a network of support, friendship and expertise. Children with Down's Syndrome are able to benefit from speech and language therapy, education and physical development. Nigel Greenhalgh, Managing Director of Village Developments said, "The new Community Fund will provide

support to local voluntary groups and charities that make a real difference to the quality of peoples' lives. Our partnership with Surrey Community Foundation is an exciting initiative which provides a simple and effective way for us to give back to our communities. This first grant awarded to PSDS is typical of the type of projects we are looking to support."



(From left) Professor Patrick Dowling, Chair, Surrey Community Foundation; Minnie Wates, PSDS; Nigel Greenhalgh, Village Developments Community Fund; Helen Shiers, PSDS; Rick Wates, PSDS; Andrew Shiers, PSDS; Maria Greenhalgh, Village Developments Community Fund; Wendy Varcoe, Executive Director, Surrey Community Foundation.

Life Time

by Anna Martin

Sheer Indulgence

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the working week could feel like the relaxing weekend?

Planning ahead could help you achieve that blissful state and free up some time for sheer indulgence. Skip the snooze - and aim to get out of bed when the alarm rings. Keeping regular bedtimes will allow your body clock to relax, and enable you to start the day refreshed. Make sure you take the time to eat a proper breakfast every morning, as this will refuel you with vital energy. Cutting back on caffeine will also help you to feel naturally motivated, instead of overly stimulated. Just these small changes will make a big difference to your day, day to day.

Take time out to go for a walk, chat to a valued friend, read a good book or just indulge yourself by listening to music or doing absolutely nothing. Any of these choices can easily be fitted into an average busy day. Choose to have lunch outdoors, weather permitting, or stroll down to the shops in your lunch-break. Doing something just because you want to, is not a frivolous waste of time. It's you spending quality time with yourself. Switching off for as little as 15



minutes each day, will reduce stress levels and make you feel ready to get on with the remaining tasks, in a calmer frame of mind.

Doing something different will also charge your energy levels and stop you feeling like you are functioning on automatic. Changing your usual routine will alter your mood, and maximise the way you deal with your day. If you take on too much your days will regularly seem filled with too many chores, tasks or problems. Paring down your usual commitments will help to simplify your life, create a sense of accomplishment and make you feel you have achieved just as much as if you were busy rushing around. All this will also help free up valuable time to relax.

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Scouting News

by District Commissioner, Andy Parr

Scout Groups in Caterham have been very busy this month starting with the 'Roverdene Challenge' for Scouts. Teams of four hiked from Whyteleafe to Chaldon in a circular route, collecting points for visiting various check points.

30 teams entered from 11 local Groups and despite the wet weather, in high spirits they set off, crossing Kenley Airfield and Coulsdon Common carrying all their necessary equipment. One of the challenges was a game of darts, and with a maximum of 30 points available, five points was the most scored. A little bit more practice is required there. On arrival at Chaldon, they set up tents and cooked a meal whilst the results were calculated. The winners of the Scout trophy were 'Berties Babes', a team from the 1st Caterham. The District Explorer Scouts won the older age trophy.

The following day was the Beaver Scout 'Scrapheap Challenge'. Teams of Beaver Scouts had about an hour to assemble models of a jungle. 50 Beaver Scouts had great fun with glue, paint and sticky-back plastic assembling their idea of a jungle theme. The winners were from Woldingham Beaver Colony, and they will hold the trophy for a year.

It was reported in this newspaper that after 11 years, I have to stand down as District Commissioner. I am delighted to be able to tell you that John Andrews has been selected to take over. John has been a Leader in Caterham and Croydon for over 30 years. He comes with a wealth of experience gained during this time, and I know he will enjoy his time as DC. Caterham is a very successful District, and numbers are rising rapidly. It needs someone with John's experi-



Delighted trophy winners, the Woldingham Beaver Colony.

ence to be able to steer the District for the next five years. The hand-over won't take place for a couple of months though.

The answer to the question that people keep asking me is 'yes, I will still be involved in Scouting, but I don't know what role my new DC has earmarked for me'. Watch this space.

For more information on how you can help us run Scout Groups in the Caterham area, please contact Andy Parr on 01883 340561

The Scouts St. George's Day parade is on Sunday, 20th April, leaving Beechwood Road at 2.30 pm, arriving for the service at Timber Hill Road at 3.00 pm

Pauline's local greetings cards are a hit!

Caterham Hill resident, Pauline Harrison, is turning her photography skills into a successful new business with the launch of her website, localgreetingscards.co.uk. The cards depict local scenes, mainly photographed by Pauline herself with her Capio Wide Angle R5 digital camera. "It all started when I took a photo of the King & Queen pub for

some friends who were emigrating to Cyprus," explained Pauline. Since then, her portfolio of cards has extended to include images from Whyteleafe, Chaldon, Banstead and Old Coulsdon as well as Caterham. The cards can be bought from the website as well as in the Station Avenue, Caterham Valley post office, Whyteleafe post office and D.K. Floral Designs and the King & Queen pub in the High Street, Caterham Hill.



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What's On

Surrey Wildlife Trust

On Sunday, 13th April, the Bay Pond Nature Reserve at Godstone will be open from 2.00pm to 5.00pm for 'Spring at Bay Pond'. There will be pond dipping and guided walks during the afternoon. Admission is free.

On Sunday, 27th April the Trust is holding a Spring Flower Walk around The Graeme Hendry Nature Reserve led by David Millen, the honourary warden. Meet in the car park in Tilburstow Hill, Rabies Heath Road, Bletchingley at 2.30pm. There is no charge for this event.

Panamas and Parasols

The Rotary Club of Titsey and District are holding a Summer Solstice Charity Garden Party on 21st June, from 12.00-7.00pm. The event, called 'Panamas and Parasols', is being held on the Titsey Estate and is in

aid of The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy (NCYPE), the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, the Scouts and other local charities. Tickets cost £32.50 with corporate packages available. For more information visit www.titsey.org.uk or telephone Sam Baird on 01883 715697.

Party in the Park

As beneficiaries of this year's Caterham Carnival, Marden Lodge School is holding a Party in the Park on Saturday 10th May. Doors open at 3.00pm. As well as musical entertainment there will be a beer tent, barbecue, sideshows and Heart 106.2FM will be in attendance. For more information and to book tickets, telephone Mark Jones on 07841 065845.

Floral Club Meeting

The next meeting of the Chaldon and Caterham Flo-

ral Club will be at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 23rd April in the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Mrs Andrea Winder will be demonstrating 'Something Old, Something New'. All are welcome.

Greek Evening

Caterham Rotary Club are presenting an International Greek Evening Extravaganza on Saturday 26th April from 7pm until Midnight at de Stafford School in Burntwood Lane, Caterham-on-the-Hill. There will be entertainment all evening from a live Bouzouki band and professional Greek dancers. Tickets cost £20 each, to include an abundance of Greek cuisine. There will also be a part-subsidised bar. To order tickets phone 'Pete the Greek' on 0208 660 3962 or e-mail peter@planinsurance.co.uk

Tandridge Photographic Society (TPS)

TPS is holding a print presentation by Tom Davie entitled 'A Pictorial Approach to Colour' on Thursday, 24th April in the Small Hall, at the rear of the Community Centre in the High Street, Caterham-on-the-Hill. For more information call Steve Elms on 01883 349646.

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Tandridge Stealers

Tandridge Stealers women's basketball team has been operating at de Stafford Sports Centre in Burntwood Lane, Caterham-on-the-Hill, for over ten years. The team comprises approximately fifteen players with ages varying from 17 to 45. Team secretary, Louise Sinclair, said:

"We have a great coach, who has played basketball for many years, and is extremely dedicated to the team. All of our players have experience at playing basketball and so the team is of a good standard." The Stealers play in the Surrey County League, which includes teams from Camberley, Kingston and South London. The official season runs between October and April where each team in the league plays three times. Running alongside this is a Cup Tournament, with the final held in April every year. The team practises every

Wednesday between 7.30-9.00pm at de Stafford, where the home games are also held. Away games are held on various other days throughout the week.

"During the summer we keep playing basketball by holding a mixed summer league," explained Louise. "This has been held at de Stafford for the last two years and is great fun. The

players get to play in a team with men, and against men, which means the games are faster and more aggressive, which helps to keep us fit for the following season!"

If you can play basketball and want to be part of a friendly team, come along on a Wednesday and see if you like it - the first session is free!

For more information contact team secretary, Louise Sinclair, on 07795 064361.



The Tandridge Stealers ladies basketball team



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riders. They will be climbing some of the toughest peaks in Europe in an effort to raise as much money as possible for the Children's Trust in Tadworth. "We have been training for months for this challenge," said Scott. "As a group we want to raise at least £50,000 to help build a national rehabilitation centre for a charity that does so

much good work for children with severe brain trauma and their families." The mountains of the Pyrenees, made famous by generations of riders in the Tour de France, stand between the atlantic town of Biarritz in France and the Mediterranean. The group's challenge is to get over the Col du Touralet, the Col de Peyresourde, the Col

d'Aspin and the Col d'Aubisque and down through Spain to Barcelona. "We've all got our own personal goals for this ride, but what brought us together in the first place is our shared commitment to raising money for the Children's Trust," explained Clive.

For more information visit www.biarritz2barcelona.com

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Caterham C.C.

by Ian Orrick

April is a busy month for Caterham Cricket Club. Winter nets finish, the first friendly games of the season are played, outdoor nets start: and that's just the playing side of things. The ground is being ever more closely inspected so it is in fine fettle for the first home game of the season. The clubhouse is being tidied and the umpires are dusting down their counters. Caterham Cricket Club for the third year running are getting involved with the NatWest CricketForce scheme over the weekend of 5th and 6th April: a countrywide opportunity for clubs to reinvigorate their grounds before the season starts. Although their projects are not as illustrious as some clubs who are rebuilding their clubhouses, they are essential to the upkeep of the club. Sightscreens need to be mended, pathways need to be cleared and the clubhouse needs a general tidy.

The club are also holding a joint Junior Registration/Senior Presentation evening on Friday 25th April which promises to be a great event. If you or your children are interested in joining the club, whether

as a player or in a non-playing capacity, this would be a perfect opportunity to come and see what the club is like. The evening starts at 7pm for Colts Registration before the presentation of awards for senior players takes place. Food will be served.

Finally, outdoor nets start at the end of the month at Caterham School and the club are more than happy to welcome new faces of all abilities.

For more information please feel free to contact: Russell Chapman (Chairman) on 07950 403382. Our website is www.caterhamcc.com.

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and Marlborough

Old Cats Sevens a great success

by Ewan Turney

The annual Easter Sevens tournament will go down in history as the first to ever suffer from snow blizzards.

The earliest Easter since 1913, meant that seven-a-side rugby, usually the preserve of warmer climates, was played in the freezing conditions.

The women's final between the Pink Baa-baas and Exeter University was abandoned at half-time due to poor visibility, such was the extent of the freakish weather.

However, a fine day was enjoyed by all 25 teams involved in the competition, who travelled far and wide to partake in the festivities.

The men's tournament was won by Roslyn Park while the Pink Baa-baas emerged victorious in the women's tournament.

Old Cats men's team went out in the quarter-finals as did its Colts team. The women's team finished third overall.

The men's side face a couple of crucial games in the coming month with games against old rivals Old Whitgiftians and Battersea

Ironsides. The Cats must win both games to make sure that they are still playing in Surrey One next year following a tough season.

However, the women's team picked up a crucial win in against Reading, beating them 10-7 to make sure that they will finish above the drop zone in their league.

As ever, the men's third team, the Ligers, continue to improve and forge the way ahead for the club. They are living proof that you can start to play rugby and enjoy it at any age.

As the season draws to a close, the annual tours will take place in April. The men travel to Cork and the women will travel down to Exeter to play against the University side.

The club will also celebrate its 80th anniversary this year with a summer ball.

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